What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is:

♦ Learning about the people and activity patterns on your block, and how to recognize suspicious individuals, vehicles, and out-of-place behavior.

♦ Making the commitment with your neighbors to report suspicious activities to the police.

♦ Making your home as secure as possible against intruders.

♦ Marking and photographing all your valuables to reduce the likelihood of theft and to increase the chances of having stolen property returned to you.

♦ Establishing an ongoing communication network to discuss ways of mutually working together for the betterment of your block, your neighborhood, and the community.

These components form the basis of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Individually, each aspect will help to make your block safer. By implementing all five will you achieve maximum protection and security against neighborhood crime.

Share this information with your neighbors. Remember, the more familiar you are with each other and crime prevention techniques, the safer your block will be.

One of the most important aspects of Neighborhood Watch is getting to know your neighbors. Whether it is better to do so at a block meeting or one-one-one is up to you, but it is important that you share information about the composition of your households and activities. By doing so you make it easier for your block members to recognize and respond to any suspicious activities in your area. To "profile" your block, share with each other the following information:

• *Names of household members* • *Address* • *Phone numbers (include work numbers)*
• *Makes* • *Models* • *Colors* • *License numbers* of family cars
• *Pets* (Does a barking dog indicate an intruder?)
• *Medical problems* (note so the most appropriate response may be made in an emergency)

Make a block map of your network and distribute to your block participants. Discuss "weaknesses" of your area (for example, visibility of houses by neighbors, areas of high daytime vacancy, residences with vacancy due to vacations, etc.)
Keep your block map in a safe but accessible place (example, in phone book or desk).
Remember, the more information you share with each other, the better protected you will be. The more you know about the activities on your block, the better your chances of preventing a crime in your neighborhood.

If you would like to start Neighborhood Watch in your community please contact the Sanford Police Community Policing Unit at 407.688.5072